The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Follow your honest convictions and be strong.—Thackeray.

WHOLE NO. 1322 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1936 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 26, NO. 33

Berry Urges Work For All Jobless

Roosevelt's Industrial Coordinator Warns That Large Unemployed Army Threatens the Principles of Democracy.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A vigorous indictment of the industrial policy of American employers which imposes continued unemployment and destitution upon millions of our people and untold suffering upon them and their families was made here by George L. Berry, President Roosevelt's Coordinator for Industrial Cooperation and chairman of the Council for Industrial Progress, in an appeal to business leaders to unite with the Council to end unemployment and solve the problems inextricably connected with it.

Declaring that the unemployment crisis which began with the depression in 1929 was caused by the mal-distribution of the national income, Mr. Berry pointed out that the same forces which brought about the 1929 crash are now dominant in industry and are applying policies inevitably resulting in the unjust wealth distribution which precipitated that catastrophe.

False Recovery

In a general approach to the jobless army question, Major Berry asked local chambers of commerce throughout the country to join with the Council for Industrial Progress in considering the problems of unemployment, Federal relief, labor conditions, and the maldistribution and unwise use of the national income.

Letters sent by Major Berry to more than 2,000 officials of commerce bodies emphasized the danger of false evaluation of "recovery" and urged widespread discussion of industrial affairs.

"The situation is a challenge to the intelligence, patriotism and leadership of the American people," Major Berry declared. "It transcends in importance all political considerations. I suggest it as a subject meriting the earnest consideration of your chamber at an early meeting."

The Coordinator identified the Council as "the joint instrument of capital, management and labor for the determination of fact, for composing divergent views, and for coordinated action, to the end that united industry may become an effective guiding influence in the economic life of the nation for promotion of the general welfare."

The problems which concern the Council, it was pointed out, cast "the shadow of uncertainty on the future of America," and the business groups were urged to give them earnest thought and discussion. Offers of assistance by way of Council literature and speakers to aid the formulation of programs were made in the Coordinator's letters.

Business Improves; Millions Are Idle

"It seems incredible, but it is true nevertheless," the letter continued, "that in spite of the upswing in all lines of business and the increase in the volume of production and of reported corporate earnings to a point now close to the 1929 level, millions of able-bodied citizens still seek in vain for gainful employment

"Local communities, whether directly affected by this condition or not, cannot escape the pernicious influence of a situation in which, in addition to those actually jobless, there are three million other workers, exclusive of the staffs of old-time government departments and agencies, who have nothing to cling to but the payroll of the Federal Government."

Asking whether this can be called "recovery" as many business leaders claim, the Coordinator adds: "Will it lead to economic stability and that volume of sustained consuming power in the market upon which industry is dependent for profitable operation?"

Private Enterprise Must Provide Jobs

Major Berry expressed the view that any practical program looking toward economic stability and security must provide for return of the unemployed to gainful occupation in private enterprise. "Otherwise," he said, "they must be sheltered, fed and clothed with public funds. There is no alternative. As long as this direct drain on the Federal treasury continues, balancing the budget seems to be a forlorn hope."

"The same forces as were responsible for the collapse in 1929 are now dominant in this country. Under the guise of 'recovery' these forces are working to create the same conditions of maldistribution and unwise use of the national income as that preceding 1929. If permitted to continue unchecked, inevitably they must plunge us again into a crisis in which the fundamental principles of democracy may be renounced."

Officers of Rotary clubs throughout the nation have been written to by Coordinator Berry in behalf of the Industry Council to stimulate a widened discussion of vital industrial problems which affect the public interest.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE LAW EVADED BY EMPLOYERS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Apparently about 5,000 employers in the District of Columbia are seeking to evade their responsibilities under the Unemployment Insurance Act for the District, which carries a one per cent pay roll tax, according to a report by the District Unemployment Board.

Although the original estimate was 15,000 employers, only 9,848 are paying the tax and about half of these started paying after the Board sent out agents to make personal inspections.

Collections which started January 1, totaled $845,065.59 for the first six months of the year, in addition to which the District government has deposited $100,000 in the U. S. Treasury, in compliance with the act. Monthly payments have increased from $127,429.85 in January to a high of $151,243.35 in May. The tax will increase to two per cent the first of next year and it is estimated nearly $2,000,000 will be in the reserve fund by that time.

Payment of benefits to unemployed do not start until January, 1938, so that an additional $3,000,000, or a total of about $5,000,000, is expected to be available when payments begin. John Locher, president of the Washington Central Labor Union, is a member of the Board, which has selected John A. Marshall, former insurance commissioner, as the director.

EDITORIALS

IMPROVEMENT IN OLD-AGE PENSION SYSTEMS

Under many State old-age pension laws enacted in recent years destitute persons must be 70 years of age before they are entitled to pension benefits. The old-age pension section of the Federal Social Security Act fixes 65 years as the age at which persons shall receive pensions in States accepting the Government assistance provided by the Act, with the modification that States with laws fixing the eligibility age at more than 65 years will be given five years to adjust the age requirement to the standard set by the Federal statute.

The salutary effects of the 65-year provision are shown in a recent statement by David C. Adie, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Social Welfare, in explaining the results of the law passed by the last session of the New York Legislature reducing the eligibility age from 70 to 65 years.

Pointing out that under the present 70-year requirement 20,000 persons are paid an average of $21 monthly, Mr. Adie said that under the 65-year provision effective October 1 the number of pensioners will be doubled and the total outlay for pensions will reach at least $30,000,000. Of this amount, the Federal Government will contribute one-half, New York State 25 per cent, and the various communities 25 per cent.

Organized labor firmly holds that as a matter of social justice the eligibility age for receiving old-age pensions should be reduced much below the 70-year point. The 65-year limit in the Federal Social Security Act was a reflection of this principle. It is to be hoped that all the other States with the 70-year limit will not wait until the expiration of the five-year period set up by the Federal Act for adjustment to 65 years, but will follow the action of the New York State Legislature and promptly make all indigent aged who are 65 years of age eligible for Federal-State pensions to protect them from want.

REPORT ON BANK FAILURES

Immediately following his inauguration on March 4, 1933, President Roosevelt issued an executive order closing banks throughout the United States pending the determination of their solvency and the safety of depositors' savings which the bank owners had borrowed with the promise to repay on demand or after suitable notice.

From time to time the solvent banks were permitted to reopen. Over four hundred were found to be insolvent and unsafe and were thrown into bankruptcy and receiverships, with losses running into millions of dollars for the depositors.

J. F. T. O'Connor, Comptroller of the Currency, under whose direction the receiverships have been handled, reports that, up to July 31, a total of 378 of these receiverships had been closed out and 42 of the closed banks restored to solvency.

It will be news to most people that banks have two classes of depositors—secured depositors and unsecured depositors. When a bank fails, the secured depositors have a preferential status with regard to the bank assets, while unsecured depositors, made up largely of the masses, are entitled to a much smaller proportionate share of the bank funds. Comptroller O'Connor reports that in the 420 banks in receivership unsecured depositors have received only 58.94 per cent of their claims. They would have received a much larger percentage if the bankers had not given the secured depositors the right to dip into the failed banks' assets first before the unsecured depositors were given the least consideration.

Now that 378 of the banks which were thrown into receiverships in 1933 have been liquidated and gone out of business, it would be a good time for Comptroller O'Connor to make a detailed report as to the specific causes for the failure of each bank. Thrifty people throughout the United States were advised over and over again prior to the time when these 378 banks crashed to entrust their funds to the bank owners for safekeeping. Comptroller O'Connor has the detailed information as to the manner in which these bankers lived up to their responsibility—whether the millions of depositors were defrauded of their savings by financial stupidity or by criminal recklessness which the bankers exhibited in their handling of other people's money. He should make the information public.

JOBS PLANNED FOR 100,000 PUERTO RICAN UNEMPLOYED

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—One hundred thousand relief jobs for Puerto Ricans—a record for the island—are expected to be provided within the next few months by the Federal Government, according to official estimates.

The Puerto Rican Reconstruction Administration, according to Harry L. Hall, assistant administrator, has recently been provided with funds which will make it possible to give relief employment to from 18,000 to 25,000 persons, in addition to those on the PRRA pay roll.

It is estimated 350,000 heads of families are idle. Officials cannot hope to do more than alleviate conditions immediately, but it is stated that "as soon as the PRRA program progresses further, there should be some permanent results."

500,000 Italian Workers Get Ten Per Cent Wage Increase

Rome, Italy.—Five hundred thousand industrial workers in Italy have been given a 10 per cent wage increase, following negotiations conducted in the presence of government officials.

A new national work contract which would replace the contract in effect since 1928 was also promised. It is expected the increases will apply to 20,000 large and small mechanical and metallurgical establishments.

AFL Unions Increase Membership 1,421,062

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—Frank Morrison, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, announced that the membership of the national and international organizations and local unions directly affiliated with the A. F. of L. for the month of July, 1936, was 3,547,858, which is a gain of 1,421,062 members over the average membership for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1933.

CALIFORNIA EMPLOYERS FIGHT JOB INSURANCE

Attempt to Strangle State Fund by Withholding Both Their Own and Employes' Contributions Required By Law.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Nine hundred employers in California are reported to have refused to mail checks to the California Unemployment Reserve Commission as their legally required contribution to the fund for the payment of unemployment insurance under the State Unemployment Insurance Act. The amounts withheld total more than $1,000,000.

Under the law employers are required to pay forty-five hundredths of one per cent of their payrolls. Failure to pay involves a penalty of 1 per cent a month.

The members of the recalcitrant group are fighting the California act as unconstitutional. They claim there is no provision for the return of the assessments in case the courts declare the law unconstitutional. They say they prefer to take the risk of paying the penalty rather than assume the other risk of losing the amounts paid into the insurance fund.

Under the statute, employers also collect the amounts their employes are required to contribute to the insurance fund. They are withholding these employe contributions from the state authorities in addition to their own.

Declaring that the action of the employers "is a brazen flouting of the law for which there can be no excuse," the Labor Clarion, the weekly publication of the San Francisco Labor Council adds:

"Whatever course they may take as to their own contributions to the unemployment fund concerns only themselves and the state authorities. But when they undertake to collect funds from their employes for a stated purpose and then refuse to apply them to the purpose for which they were contributed it would seem to be time for the law enforcement officers to take a hand on behalf of the workers."

GENEVA LABOR OFFICE INCREASES ACTIVITY

Handled 59,866 Letters in 1935—Inquiries in 24 Languages Came from 80 Countries.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Geneva, Switzerland.—The International Labor Office, now composed of 62 nations, including the United States, finds its fame spreading throughout the world, with resultant good being accomplished—and increasing work for the secretariat.

A compilation recently completed shows that inquiries were received during 1935 from 80 different countries and in 24 languages. A total of 59,866 letters were received, by far the greatest number of any one year, topping the previous high of 1934, by over 4,000.

The United States rated in fourth place in the number of inquiries, Switzerland being first, Great Britain second and France third. Correspondence with the United States increased 19.9 per cent during the year. An odd angle is that correspondence with the U. S. S. R. had an increase of 65.5 per cent and Canada 52.8 per cent.

Comparing and epitomizing facts about labor laws and conditions of employment throughout the world keeps the I. L. O. busy at every season of the year. The catalogue of its library lists about 400,000 items in over 30 languages, with weekly accessions of 600. Over 400 periodicals, in 45 languages, are received from over 100 countries. A weekly paper, a monthly review and a year book, places the resources of the office at the disposal of the world.

GAS KILLS NINE MINERS

Duquoin, Ill. (AFLNS)—Lack of adequate protection for the safety of workers by employers was held to have cost nine more human lives in the Kathleen Mine of the Union Colleries, at Dowell, near here.

A new transformer, installed one day, exploded the next. A fire resulted and carbon monoxide gas formed. Three miners got into a gas pocket and six others tried to drag them out, with the result that all nine met death. Twelve others who had been overcome by the poisonous gas, were revived.

The victims were not provided with helmets and were easy prey to the gas pocket when it came along. The men had been handing up materials to rescue teams equipped with oxygen tanks, who were erecting a brattice, or barricade, to confine the fire. Mine crews were expected to return to work in the mine shortly after a permanent seal had been completed.

TEXTILE UNEMPLOYMENT CAUSED BY STRETCH-OUT

Newport, N. H. (AFLNS)—Wages in the wool and worsted industry dropped 34.8 per cent from 1928 to 1935, according to a statement here by H. A. Riviere, a vice president of the United Textile Workers of America. Employment in the industry has declined 67,773 from 1923 to 1935.

The well-known "stretch-out," increasing machine load per man, was blamed by Mr. Riviere for the unemployment in the industry, in an address before a conference of workers from Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire. He pointed out that, while there has been an increase of 100 per cent in the consumption of wools by the mills in 1935, the "man hour" gauge of employment has increased only 50 per cent.

Senator Wagner Plans Drive for Enactment Of Federal Housing Bill by Next Congress

By A. F. of L. News Service.

United States Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York announces that he will resubmit the Wagner-Ellenbogen Housing Bill to the next session of Congress and use all possible parliamentary procedure for its prompt enactment into law. He made the statement immediately on his return from an inspection of the slum clearance program in England and Ireland.

The housing programs in these countries, he said, are not handicapped by court decisions, "such as happen to us here, but the general scheme there is about the same as I have outlined in our proposed housing bill."

In England and Ireland, Senator Wagner explained, the local authority sponsors the projects and there are government loans and grants for slum replacements with rentals fixed low enough for low income groups to occupy the houses.

The Wagner-Ellenbogen bill was killed during the closing days of the recent session of Congress by the House Committee on Banking and Currency, which voted to table the measure after it had passed the Senate. The bill authorized the establishment of a United States Housing Authority of five members to develop, in cooperation with local authorities, low-rent housing projects for the benefit of persons whose incomes are not large enough to enable them to buy or rent houses built under the usual rules of private enterprise.

Ten Million Lack Decent Housing

For the construction of these projects the bill authorized an initial appropriation of $10,000,000 and gave the Housing Authority power to borrow by bond issues $150,000,000 during the first year and $150,000,000 during each of the succeeding two years.

In its report favoring the enactment of the measure the Senate Committee on Education and Labor emphasized the widespread nature of **bad housing in** the statement that "even before the depression commenced over 10,000,000 families in America, or more than 40,00,000 people, were subjected to housing conditions that did not adequately protect their health and safety."

The committee emphasized the conviction, borne out by experience, that although private enterprise, animated by the profit motive, can provide adequate housing accommodations for the groups receiving moderate and high incomes, it has not and cannot function successfully for the low-income groups. To meet this emergency the Housing Authority under the Wagner-Ellenbogen Act would make outright grants to public housing agencies up to 45 per cent of the cost of low-rent housing projects plus loans payable over a long term of years.

Model Factory Is Started In Resettlement Administration's Co-operative Colony

Many Enthusiastic Garment Workers' Families Begin Big Experiment in Jersey Homesteads, N. J.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Hightstown, N. J.—Jersey Homesteads, the co-operative colony being built here by the Roosevelt Administration and long a dream of Benjamin Brown, modest but far-seeing New York manufacturer, now has its own self-supporting, co-operative factory. It was dedicated with much pomp at impressive ceremonies attended by a large number of people who believe in the co-operative principle.

The factory, which will manufacture garments, featuring women's coats, nestles in the tree-dotted colony of some 200 homes now under construction, with 35 finished. Boris Drasin, president of the Workers' Aim Co-operative Society, sponsor of the project, stated that the factory will be "one-hundred-per-cent union."

Dream Come True.

So Ben. Brown, self-effacing New Yorker, is seeing a long-cherished dream come true. For, although many people have necessarily been associated with the development of the project, it was Ben. Brown's dream; and it was he, perhaps more than any other individual, who gave the scheme the initial impetus that started it on to completion.

Ben. was at the dedication, of course. And he even made a speech. He expressed thanks to the Government for extending credit to the 200 homestead families, but took care to point out that they are putting up $500 each for their garment factory. "In the long run," Ben. Brown said, "it is our money and our work that will make this enterprise." Red-baiters, who have delighted in referring to the enterprise as a "Communist colony," were given final answer also:

"This is the American way," Ben. Brown told his enthusiastic audience. "That way is to offer free opportunity—a chance to work and prosper. We need a new path by which to maintain the most valuable thing in our country—democracy."

Rexford G. Tugwell, Resettlement Administrator, wired: "From now on, the success and repute of Jersey Homesteads will become more and more your responsibility." And the homesteaders, faces lifted in smiles of satisfaction in the progress already made and buoyed by the sound hope of continued success, accepted that responsibility.

Many Orders On Hand.

A fashion show was held in connection with the opening, when 70 pretty models paraded a 40-foot runway, exhibiting sample women's coats. For the factory is to make women's coats and 100 buyers had been invited down for the dedication.

The result has been an avalanche of orders. While it was intended to start the factory with 35 workers, 92 people were put to work instead. A show-room in New York, careful designing by selected experts and careful workmanship by the homesteaders who operate the factory, inspired by determined desire to succeed "the hard way"—through merit alone—gives every indication of keeping the new co-operative factory going on a profitable basis. Thus, even before the project is completed, success is assured for Jersey Homesteads.

Cheap Electric Power For Farm Homes Planned by Rural Electrification Board

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The Rural Electrification Administration expects to soon enable the average American farmer to install complete modern electrical machinery and equipment at a cost of about $1,000, including installation, Morris L. Cooke, Administrator, announced here.

Of the nation's 6,812,350 farms, it is estimated that only about 11 per cent, or 750,000, are served at present by central station electricity. During the next 10 years, the REA expects to extend this benefit to 1,000,000 more farms and to encourage private utilities to electrify another 1,000,000 during this time.

The REA program, Administrator Cooke explained, should make possible the use of many labor-saving devices on the average farm at moderate cost. The $1,000 estimate "will not allow for gadgets, nor for air conditioning, but it will provide the essentials of wiring, home appliances, a few aids to work about the farm, like a good powerful utility motor, and good servicable plumbing equipment."

ICKES SPEEDS UP 6 LOW COST HOUSING PROJECTS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Immediate start of construction of six developments in as many cities has been ordered by Harold L. Ickes, Public Works Administrator, to speed up the government's $130,000,000 low-cost housing program.

"Techwood," the housing development at Atlanta, Ga., is said to be the only PWA low-cost housing development actually completed, where tenants are now being received.

The six projects to start at once are located in Louisville, Chicago, Nashville, Columbia, S. C., Memphis and Oklahoma City. They involve contract values totaling $9,549,061. Orders were also issued to proceed with foundation construction on an Omaha project.

The 50 projects proposed for 35 cities will be built on schedule, according to Howard A. Gray, recently appointed as director of the Housing Division of the PWA. He estimated they will provide homes for over 100,000 people of the low-income group.

STRIKE OF CALIFORNIA CITRUS WORKERS ENDED

Santa Ana, Calif. (AFLNS).—The end of the long citrus strike in Orange County by an agreement signed by representatives of the strikers' committee and the growers' committee was announced by Lucas Lucio, representative of the Mexican Consul in Los Angeles.

When the strike occurred on June 11 the pickers received no hourly wage but were paid 5½ and 6 cents per box with an additional 1 cent per box bonus for remaining until the end of the season.

The agreement, according to Mr. Lucio, provided a 20-cent hourly wage for a nine-hour day, plus three cents per box of fruit picked. Growers agreed to furnish free transportation for the pickers and to furnish bags and clippers.

Although there was no statute against either striking or picketing, the local authorities arrested many of the strikers and jailed them with the evident intention of ending the walkout by illegal detention of the workers active in conducting it.

MERCHANTS IN ECUADOR BARRED FROM STRIKING

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Merchants in Ecuador may not resort to strikes, this right being reserved exclusively for labor.

Such is the gist of an order recently issued by Ecuadorian authorities when it was learned a strike of merchants was planned against the government's new exchange control law. Police gave warnings that all shop owners who closed would be arrested and deportation of any foreign owners might result. The strike did not materialize.

Under the new exchange restrictions, all imports must be licensed by the central bank. The decree also requires that the proceeds of all exports, and that all proceeds at present in the hands of banks and others, be delivered to the central bank. Unlicensed goods would be subject to confiscation, while importers are subject to fines and jail sentences.

Chambers of commerce and newspapers have criticised the new law and point to adverse results of two former control laws. The new exchange restrictions were reported to be held as "necessary" protection for the central bank's gold reserves. In the face of this criticism, the central bank says the law will be administered fairly and is pleading for co-operation of business interests for the common good.

CHRYSLER'S EMPLOYES GET BONUS; AVERAGES $30.55

Detroit, Mich. (AFLNS).—Officials of the Chrysler Motor Corporation announced the distribution of a $2,000,000 bonus among its 65,000 employes covering all workers but top-ranking executives. Each employe will receive $25 plus $1 for each year of service with the company. It was estimated that the average would be about $30.56. Last February the company distributed a wage bonus amounting to approximately $2,300,000.

It is evident that the purpose of the company is to quiet unrest among its employes resulting from dissatisfaction with wages which fail to reflect an appropriate share in the large profits which flow from increased business. K. T. Keller, president of Chrysler, said that "during the last six months the corporation "has built and shipped 578,407 cars and trucks, the largest six months' business in its history."

20,000 UNION ALUMINIM WORKERS WIN PAY BOOST

Agreement Negotiated by the American Federation of Labor Covers All Plants of the Aluminum Company Of America in the United States And Canada.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Pittsburgh, Pa—After negotiations with representatives of A. F. of L. unions, the Aluminum Company of America granted another general increase in wages of three cents an hour to 20,000 hourly paid employes of the company in its six plants The agreement becomes effective Sept. 15.

The new rates constitute a five per cent pay increase. It is the second increase made by the company within ten months and will make the hourly rate 11 per cent higher than in 1929, company officials said.

The wage increase followed a month's negotiations between the Aluminum Company and the representatives of the National Council of Aluminum Workers, an A. F. of L. affiliate.

I. W. Wilson, vice president of the Aluminum Company, had informed the National Council of Aluminum Workers that:

"We are ready to discuss matters of mutual interest to the company and to those of our employes who are members of any such local union, with such committees of those unions or your council as those employes may designate as their representative or representatives."

Delegates from the unions on the negotiating committtee included David Williams, president, National Council of Aluminum Workers; Frank J. Dillon, A. F. of L. organizer; J. P. Howlett, John Hasel, William McCall and Charles Fennell, of New Kensington, Pa.; Oliver Moyse, Logan's Ferry, Pa.; Carl K. Greene, Alcoa, Tenn.; D. B. Lackey, Badin, N. C.; Frank R. Myers, Massena, N. Y.; Eddie R. Stahl and Arthur H. Curtis, East St. Louis, Ill.

BELLAIRE ENAMEL WORKERS WIN UNION SHOP CONTRACT

Agreement with Bellaire Enamel Company Protects Wages, Hours, Overtime Pay, Seniority Rights and Arbitration Provision.

Bellaire, Ohio (AFLNS).—Enameling Workers Union No. 20254 secured an agreement from the Bellaire Enamel Company recognizing the union as the sole agency for the purpose of collective bargaining with the firm, including a provision that after 90 days all workers employed on production must be or become members of the union.

The agreement stipulates that time and one-half shall be paid for all overtime in excess of eight hours per day and 40 hours per week and double time for Sundays and scheduled legal holidays. Work on Labor Day is banned, and two hours pay for a report at the factory is required. The minimum hourly rate is 35 cents for females and 40 cents for males. There are classified hourly minimums for skilled workers in the higher brackets. Seniority rights are adequately protected.

A method for adjusting grievances is contained in the contract, together with an arbitration provision. There is also a provision which requires the company to meet with the organization committee to negotiate an agreement for 1937.

ORNBURN WILL BROADCAST ADDRESS ON LABOR DAY

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—The Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor announced that I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Department will broadcast an address over the national network of the Columbia Broadcasting System from Washington on Labor Day, September 7, from 3:30 to 3:45 (Eastern Standard Time). His subject will be, "The Union Label—The Emblem of Labor Day."

The Department urges central labor bodies to request local radio stations of the Columbia Broadcasting System to carry Mr. Ornburn's message. Arrangements have been made, it was said, to pick up the address by means of loud speakers at many Labor Day celebrations. All members of organized labor are requested by the Department to notify their friends as to the time of the broadcast and to listen in.

PARAGUAY BEGINS LAND DISTRIBUTION SCHEME

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The Paraguayan government has started its land distribution scheme by providing for the settlement of 15,000 families, under easy terms of payment, in the departments of Sapucay, Caazapa and Caballero.

Land for this purpose has already been taken over, in addition to about 20,000 acres each in other departments, for distribution projects in furthering the program of settling peasants on land under terms within their means.

Lack of modern equipment has proven a handicap, but the government expects to introduce plows as rapidly as possible.

Following a military revolt which overthrew the regime of Eusebio Ayala, February 20, Provisional President Rafael Franco of Paraguay has decreed the country a totalitarian state, described as "a true democracy of peasants and workers."

Nationalization of natural and industrial wealth, within financial and technical possibilities, is included in plans of the present government, the major goal of which is distribution of 2,200,000 acres of land among peasants.

Wage Bonus Plan Applied By Ludlum Steel Company

Watervliet, N. Y. (AFLNS).—Aroused by the "greedy" eyes of its 1,000 employes searchingly fixed on low wages for the workers and increasing profits for the stockholders, officials of the Ludlum Steel Company, with plants here and at Dunkirk, N. Y., announced that a bonus of 5 per cent of the total wages of each employe for the first six months of 1936 would be paid immediately. The sum distributed will amount to about $38,000. H. G. Batcheller, president of the company, said the additional compensation was granted as a result of increased profits during the first half of the year.

Newspaper Guild Gets AFL Charter

Green Says Union Organization Is Necessary to Obtain Higher Living Standards For News Writers—A. F. of L. Does Not Interfere With Newspaper Policies.

Declares Majority Rule Must Be Preserved in American Federation of Labor, Which Has Room For "Both Industrial And Craft Organization on a Broad Basis."

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York, N. Y.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, presented an A. F. of L. charter to the American Newspaper Guild at a meeting in the Hotel Biltmore here. The charter was recently granted by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor.

In welcoming news writers into the organized labor movement, Mr. Green pointed out that the newspaper publishers are highly organized. He did not criticise them for this. But, he added, "no newspaper owner or group of owners has any right to claim the right to organize and at the same time deny that right to men and women who work for wages and salaries."

Declaring that the time had passed, when men and women of talent could obtain justified recompense without organizing with their fellow men, he said the officers and members of the Guild did not seek to interfere with freedom of the press or with the exercise of the rights of editorial writers. Nor was there a disposition on the part of the American Federation of Labor "to interfere with the policies of the newspapers of America."

What the A. F. of L. did pledge itself to do, he went on, was to use its power to bring about a better "standard of life and of living" for the newspaper writers now embraced in its ranks.

Majority vs. Minority Rule

In the course of his talk Mr. Green told the news writers that the current "family dispute" in trade union ranks was not one of craft versus industrial unions, as many persons had, unfortunately, been led to believe, but one of democracy—whether the unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor should abide by the majority decision on organizational policy taken at its 1935 convention in Atlantic City to be applied until the next convention.

"The trouble is," he said, "a minority has organized to put into effect a decision that was lost at the Atlantic City convention. The overshadowing principle at stake is that of democratic rule, the will of the majority. In these days we are fighting against Fascism, demanding that the majority shall prevail. How can we do that in national affairs if we are willing to accept minority control in an organization like the A. F. of L.? It is a question of practicing what you preach. That is the issue in our family dispute, and nothing else.

Has "Taken It on the Chin"

"In my time with the A. F. of L. I've been in the minority and, figuratively speaking, I've taken it on the chin. I didn't go out organizing a minority on the outside. I was always regular and, so help me Providence, I'll never go to my grave having led a dual or minority group in opposition to the A. F. of L."

Mr. Green predicted that the democratic principle eventually would triumph in Germany, Italy and "in the A. F. of L." He expressed the belief that sooner or later the differences within union labor ranks would be composed.

Labor Unity Stressed

"I say to those who think they can divide and conquer labor that they are making a great mistake," he continued. "I want to tell them that when labor is attacked by a common foe its ranks will close. Let no enemy of labor take any consolation from the slight differences that have occurred within the ranks of organized labor."

"We will be resourceful enough to find a basis of accommodation for this present difference," he declared, adding: "We have got room enough in the A. F. of L. to apply both industrial and craft organization on a broad basis."

The Guild meeting was also addressed by Joseph P. Ryan, president of the Central Trades and Labor Council; George Meany, president of the New York State Federation of Labor, and William Collins, New York City representative of the A. F. of L.

COSHOCTON GLOVE WORKERS KEEP UP UNION SHOP FIGHT

Coshocton, Ohio (AFLNS).—Striking Coshocton glove workers refused the employers' offer to return to work without discrimination at the low wages paid when the walkout occurred over four months ago, with the provisions that he would deal with a committee made-up of union and non-union employes and try to apply the 40-hour week until the end of the present year.

The strikers, all girls, firmly refused to accept a lower wage rate than was in effect before the strike, and refused to deal with the employer unless the union was recognized as the sole bargaining agency and their elected committee, without change, negotiated for them.

The union girls have picketed the plant from the inception of the strike and are determined not to return to work until their demands for the union shop and higher wages are met.